



# PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE MAJORITY

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## **House Advances Bill Aimed at Skyrocketing Class Size** *Bill mandates class size discussion in collective bargaining*

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives today passed [House Bill 4113](#), giving teachers a bigger voice in the discussion over class sizes by making it a mandatory collective bargaining subject.

The legislation, authored by Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem) and co-chief sponsored by Rep. Margaret Doherty (D-Tigard), would change current Oregon law which allows for class size to be a permissive subject of collective bargaining.

Rep. Clem, the father of a daughter in the Salem-Keizer School District, said this issue hit particularly close to home for him.

“After volunteering in my daughters’ classroom, it became immediately apparent that there were too many kids in there,” Rep. Clem said. “It was obvious that the teacher was making the best of an impossible situation, but it made me double-down on my longstanding fight for quality public education.”

While House Bill 4113 will allow educators to discuss class size when negotiating their contracts, it does not mandate the number of students in a classroom and does not have a fiscal impact to the state.

“This bill doesn’t cost us a thing,” Rep. Clem added. “Making sure that we have a conversation about class size is important and needs to happen now. We can’t wait any longer.”

For Rep. Doherty, a retired teacher, this issue is two-fold, about working to reduce class size and improving teacher working conditions.

“There are few other factors that affect a teacher’s ability to do their job as much as the number of students they have in their classrooms,” Rep. Doherty said. “It is time for us to give our teachers, who are at the frontlines of our public education system, the opportunity to have this discussion.”

Rep. Diego Hernandez (D-Portland), a member of the Reynolds School District board and sponsor of the bill, said this legislation is about building the best possible learning environment.

“House Bill 4113 is about giving teachers the voice they deserve,” Rep. Hernandez said. “Who better to tell us what’s working and what’s not when it comes to class size than the people in those classrooms every day? It’s a conversation I am ready to have as a school board member. And it’s one, I think, we as a legislature should ensure teachers are able to have when they are at the negotiating table.”

Oregon House Democrats are committed to support a quality public education system for every Oregonian from cradle-to-career. That means investing in early childhood programs, reducing class sizes and improving graduation rates at K-12 schools, making community colleges and universities more affordable, and supporting the expansion of modern career-technical education and vocational opportunities.

More than 20 House and Senate Democrats sponsored the legislation.

The legislation, which passed the House 33 to 25, now goes to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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